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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 873, June 2, 7 p.m.

In press conference at 4:30 p.m. today Interior Minister Charnaud MacDonald announced that Guatemalan authorities had discovered "best organized" plots so far hatched against government. He said it was superior in equipment and technique and that persons arrested here were only vanguard of others to come from abroad. He refused supply details since investigation was still going on.

Meanwhile several more arrests have been made and other persons have sought asylum in diplomatic missions. Secretary Salvadoran Embassy said today seven persons were in his Embassy and three reportedly in Ecuadoran Legation.

Among those whose arrests have been reported are: Ricardo Minzares Castellanos, farmer from Gualan; Ruben Flores Avendano, brother of Colonel Guillermo Flores.

Avendano arrested after Salama uprising last year and later allowed to leave country; Ramon Robles Luarca, bill collector for municipality; Gilberto Morales and Julio Aragon, both employees of Irca Railways; Daniel Ortortiz Flores, butcher; Daniel Gerardo Espana Guevarac, retired army captain; and Perfecto Villegas Mota, whose wife is first cousin Colonel Carlos Castillo Arma, supposed leader of plot.

In all cases when relatives have inquired at police station, officials have denied that person in question had been arrested, thus effectively negating right of habeous corpus.

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